

National Capital Region Office of Communications Washington, D.C. Department of the Interior National Park Service 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20242 202 ● 619 ● 7400 phone 202 ● 619 ● 7302 fax

Office of Communications News Release

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For Immediate Release William Line, 202-619-7400

National Park Service to hold Ticket Distribution for Christmas Pageant of Peace Tree Lighting Ceremony

Washington, D.C. - The National Park Service will distribute 2,800 free Christmas Pageant of Peace Tree Lighting Ceremony tickets to the public at the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion at the southwest corner of 15th and E Streets, NW, on Saturday, November 5, 2005, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

The tickets will be available on a first come, first served basis until all tickets are gone. A maximum of four tickets will be issued per person. Tickets are required for every attendee, including all children. Guests are reminded that the tickets are free and may not be sold.

The opening night lighting ceremony for the National Christmas tree will be held on Thursday, December 1, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. The gates will open for all ticket holders at 3:30 p.m. For security reasons, all guests must be in their seats by 4:30 p.m.

Guests are reminded that aerosols of any kind, fireworks/firecrackers, animals, except guide dogs, duffel bags/suitcases/backpacks/coolers, real or simulated ammunition, knives of any kind, mace/pepper spray and laser lights/pointers are prohibited. This list may not be inclusive. Law enforcement personnel reserve the right to prohibit any other items determined to be a potential public safety hazard. Strollers, wheelchairs and diaper bags are allowed, but guests should be prepared for a search of all items carried onto the site.

Parking is not available near the White House. The National Park Service strongly encourages the use of public transportation. The closest Metro stops are Metro Center, Federal Triangle, and McPherson Square.

For questions about tickets for the Christmas Pageant of Peace, please call the White House Visitor Center at (202) 208-1631.